

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04060 232134Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 880

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4060

FOR: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, BL
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE ON DEPARTURE OF UNDER-SECRETARY NEWSOM

FROM LA PAZ

1. EVEN THOU WE UNDERSTAND YOU MAY NOT WISH TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LA PAZ, TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR VISIT WE WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE UPON YOUR DEPARTURE. THIS WILL ALSO HELP US TO KEEP REPORTERS FROM CORNERING YOU DURING THE VISIT. THE PROPOSED TEXT FOLLOWS FOR YOUR APPROVAL AND SUGGESTIONS. IT WILL BE ISSUED IN SPANISH TRANSLATION.

2. TEXT
DAVID D. NEWSOM, RECENTLY APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AS UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, VISITED LA PAZ ON MAY 25 AND 26. IN THIS FIRST OVERSEAS TRIP SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT AS UNDERSECRETARY, MR. NEWSOM VISITED THREE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, COLOMBIA, ARGENTINA AND BOLIVIA, WHERE THE UNITED STATES HAS IMPORTANT INTERESTS. HE IS THE HIGHEST RANKING AMERICAN OFFICIAL TO VISIT BOLIVIA SINCE THE VISIT OF THEN-SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IN JUNE 1976.
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UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MAIN OBJECTIVES IN COMING TO BOLIVIA WERE TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE COUNTRY AND ITS LEADERS AND TO EXPRESS US SUPPORT FOR THE IMPRESSIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN RECENT YEARS. UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM MET WITH HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, GENERAL HUGO BANZER SUAREZ, THE ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GENERAL GUILLERMO JIMENEZ GALLO, MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL

HUGO BRETTEL AND THE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT IN THE JULY 9 ELECTIONS AND OTHER LEADING FIGURES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT.

IN HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM CONVEYED THE GREETINGS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT BANZER'S SUPPORT FOR THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ITS RESTRAINT IN PURCHASES OF ARMS AND ITS DECISION TO CALL ELECTIONS AND RETURN BOLIVIA TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS ENCOURAGING PROCESS VIA FAIR ELECTIONS ON JULY 9. HE DESCRIBED THE UNITED STATES' INTENTION TO CONTINUE COOPERATING WITH BOLIVIA IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE UNDERSECRETARY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CONDITIONS WOULD SOON PERMIT THE RESUMPTION OF PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH PERU AND CHILE REGARDING BOLIVIA'S ASPIRATIONS FOR AN OUTLET TO THE SEA.

IN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT OF TIN, UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM NOTED THAT THE PRICE OF TIN HAD AGAIN RISEN TO A LEVEL WELL ABOVE US\$5 AND HE AFFIRMED THE COMMITMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO MANAGE ANY US TIN SALES SO AS TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF THE TIN MARKET AND TO CARRY OUT BILATERAL

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CONSULTATIONS WITH BOLIVIA BEFORE ANY SUCH SALES.

UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FROM LA PAZ THE EVENING OF MAY 26. HE EXPRESSED ON DEPARTING THAT HE WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE NEW ENVIRONMENT IN BOLIVIA AND ITS PLANNED RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE, WHICH CAN BE A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE REGION. END TEXT.
BOEKER

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